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FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7172
INFO RUEHJI/AMCONSUL JEDDAH PRIORITY 9263

C O N F I D E N T I A L RIYADH 002429

SIPDIS

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PLEASE PASS TO NEA/ELA ANN SOMERSET

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/09/2017

TAGS: KDEM PREL PGOV LE SA

SUBJECT: SAG ALSO ENCOURAGING RAPID LEBANESE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS WITHOUT CONDITION

REF: SECSTATE 163945

Classified By: Political Counselor David Rundell
for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

¶1. PolOff delivered reftel demarche to Ministry of Foreign Affairs Head of Arab Department Ambassador Dr. Saleh al-Koheimi on December 8. Al-Koheimi stated that the SAG also supports the encouragement of immediate Lebanese presidential elections without condition, and he asserted that the Saudi Ambassador to Lebanon has been pursuing this agenda for weeks. He also stated that the SAG is hopeful that the next planned election reportedly to be held on December 18 will be successful.

FRAKER